

Committed to a fair and equitable property tax system for Hoosier taxpayers.

Indiana Township Association Budgeting Workshop

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STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER NORTH 100 NORTH SENATE AVENUE N1058 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204 PHONE (317) 232-3773 FAX (317) 232-8779

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Local Government Fiscal Officers

FROM:

Dan Jones, Assistant Director, Budget Division

DATE:

May 25, 2012

SUBJECT: 2012 - 2013 Budget Calendar

This calendar is an update to the budget calendar distributed on January 6, 2012 and reflects changes resulting from the 2012 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

On-time property tax bills are a top priority for the Department of Local Government Finance ("Department" or "DLGF") for 2012 and 2013.

To achieve this objective it is necessary for all involved in the assessment to property tax billing process to understand that there are sequential deadlines for completing various tasks. Attached are key deadlines for calendar year 2012 and the start of calendar year 2013. The deadlines below were adjusted to reflect the appropriate business day the activity must be accomplished in order to stay on-time for 2012 and 2013. Failure to comply with any of these deadlines jeopardizes the possibility for the billing of property taxes on the statutory timeline.

Please note that if a county, city, town, or township has not adopted an anti-nepotism policy in compliance with IC 36-1-20.2 and IC 36-1-21, the Department will not be able to approve the unit's budget or additional appropriations for the ensuing year. Likewise, the Department may not approve a unit's budget or additional appropriations if the unit has not filed with the State Board of Accounts ("SBOA") its Annual Financial Report and Annual Salary Report (100R).

Contact your local Department field representative with specific questions about the budget calendar or the budget process. Contact information for field representatives is available by visiting "Contact Us" on our web site at www.in.gov/dlgf/2338.htm#BudgetFld or by calling 317-232-3777.

Where are we in the budget cycle?

Where do we go from here?



- May 1, 2012
 - Ratio study to be submitted to the DLGF by the County Assessor
 - As of 9/26, 88 submitted/86 approved
- June 30, 2012
 - Cash balance date for Line 6 of Form 4B
 - While the Current Year Financial Worksheet is in Gateway, you must still provide your field representative with your financial statements to verify June 30 cash balance



- July 1, 2012
 - County Assessor "rolls" assessed values to the County Auditor
 - As of 9/21, 67 counties have rolled
- August 1, 2012
 - Certification of Net Assessed Values
 - As of 9/26, 41 counties have certified values to the DLGF



- August 31, 2012
 - Deadline to submit non-binding review form to County Council for recommendation
 - County Council has until October 1 to issue recommendation
 - WHAT IF?
 - We didn't submit the form!
 - Budgets and levies will be continued.*
 - * Debt service levy exception



- August 31, 2012
 - WHAT IF?
 - We adopted before the Council completed their recommendation.
 - Hold another adoption meeting after receiving the recommendation.
 - Advertise the meeting per Open Door Law.
 - Withdraw prior adoption.
 - Re-adopt.



- September 13, 2012
 - Last day for first publication of Form 3
- September 20, 2012
 - Last day for second publication of Form 3
 - WHAT IF?
 - We didn't advertise on-time or we didn't advertise with the correct timing.
 - Budgets and levies will be continued.*
 - * Debt service levy exception

- September 13, 2012
- September 20, 2012
 - WHAT IF?
 - Our publication was incorrect.
 - If the newspaper caused the publication error, get a signed affidavit from the newspaper documenting the error and their responsibility for the error.
 - If incorrect information was supplied,
 DLGF will hold the unit to the publication.



- October 22, 2012
 - Last possible day to hold public hearing
 - WHAT IF?
 - We didn't hold the public hearing on the date advertised.
 - Budgets and levies will be continued.*
 - * Debt service levy exception



- October 22, 2012
 - Last possible day to hold public hearing
 - WHAT IF?
 - We don't have a quorum.
 - Continue the public hearing to a later date (must be 10 days before budget adoption).
 - Document continuation in your minutes.



- November 1, 2012
 - Last possible day to adopt 2013 budget, levies and tax rates



Form 4 Checklist

BEFORE MEETING:

 Check that correct values for budget, levy and tax rate are listed in top paragraph.

DURING MEETING:

- Check that board members have correctly signed and checked the appropriate box to document their vote.
- Make sure the form is dated with the date of the adoption.



- November 1, 2012
 - Last possible day to adopt 2013 budget, levies and tax rates
 - WHAT IF?
 - We don't have a quorum.
 - Continue the adoption meeting to a later date.
 - Document continuation in your minutes.



- November 1, 2012
 - Last possible day to adopt 2013 budget, levies and tax rates
 - WHAT IF?
 - We couldn't get the Form 4 to print correctly.
 - Handwrite in the numbers you are adopting and have the board members initial the numbers.



- November 1, 2012
 - Last possible day to adopt 2013 budget, levies and tax rates
 - WHAT IF?
 - Our Form 4 values are blank or zeros.
 - Hold another adoption meeting.
 - Advertise the meeting per Open Door Law.
 - Withdraw prior adoption.
 - Re-adopt.



- November 1, 2012
 - Last possible day to adopt 2013 budget, levies and tax rates
 - WHAT IF?
 - The board didn't check the boxes to document their votes.
 - At a public meeting, have the board check the boxes and initial next to the boxes.



- November 5, 2012
 - Gateway closes for budget submission
 - All forms should be submitted and required budget documents should be uploaded by this date.
 - WHAT IF?
 - We didn't submit the forms in Gateway by the deadline.
 - Budgets and levies will be continued.*
 - * Debt service levy exception



Other Document Submissions

- Annual Report/TA-7
 - Budgets and levies will be continued.*
 - * Debt service levy exception
- Debt Report
 - Debts must be reported in Gateway Debt Management.
 - If a debt is not in Debt Management, the DLGF cannot approve a budget or a <u>levy</u> for the debt.

- February 15, 2013
 - Deadline for DLGF to certify budget orders
 - Prior to certifying budget orders, the DLGF will notify each unit of the proposed budget, levy and tax rate through the 1782 Notice.
 - 1782 Notices will be sent via email only this year.
 - Make sure we have a correct email for you.
 - Regularly check your email.



- February 15, 2013
 - Respond to your 1782 Notice within 10 calendar days from the day it was sent.
 - Responses will be accepted only by email or fax this year. No mailed submissions.
 - Once the DLGF receives responses from all units in a county or the 10 calendar days have passed, DLGF will certify final budgets, levies and tax rates for each unit.
 - Budget Orders available on the DLGF webpage.



Contact the Department

- Courtney Schaafsma, Budget Director
 - Telephone: 317.234.3937
 - E-mail: cschaafsma@dlgf.in.gov
- Budget Field Representatives
 - www.in.gov/dlgf/files/Budget Field
 Staff Assignments and Numbers.pdf
- Web site: www.in.gov/dlgf
 - "Contact Us": www.in.gov/dlgf/2338.htm.

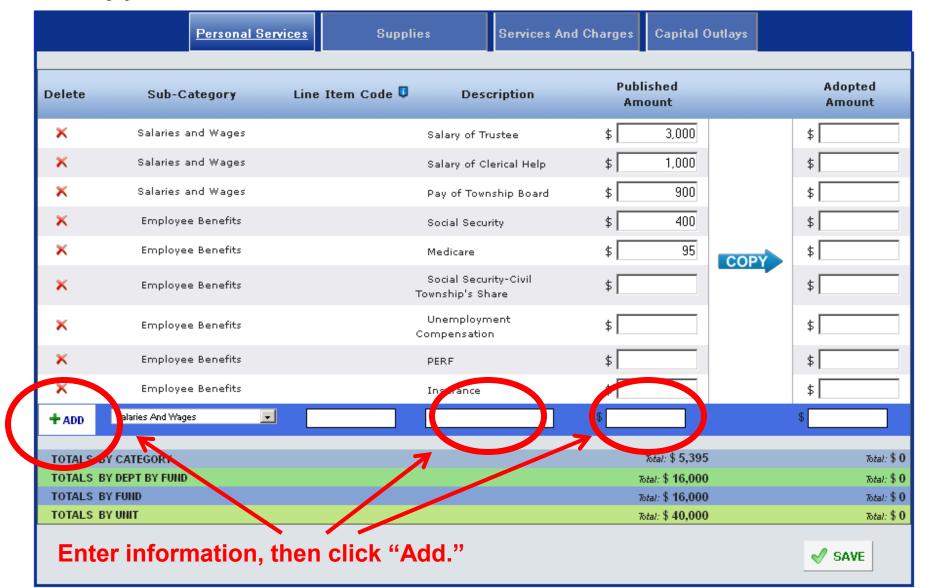


Gateway Tips: Form 1

- Start as soon as possible! Can be timeconsuming.
- Pay attention to fund totals. They should match fund totals on Form 4A as well as Form 4B, Line 1.
- Make certain amounts are entered in both published and adopted columns for all funds before submitting.
- Know how to add a new line and save amounts to an existing line item.

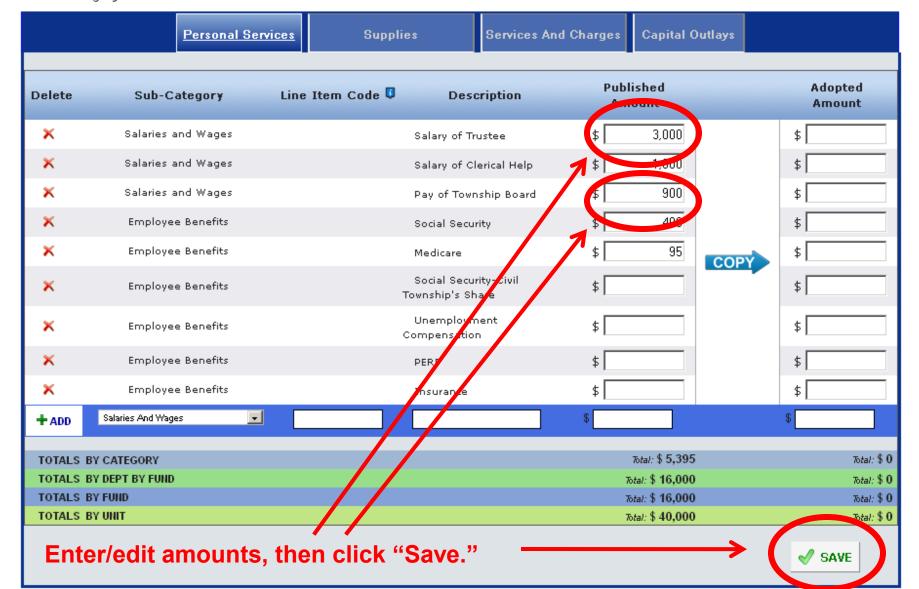
Select Fund: 0101 - GENERAL Select Department:

Select Category Tab



Select Fund: 0101 - GENERAL Select Department:

Select Category Tab





Gateway Tips: Current Year Financial Worksheet

- Formerly the Line 2 Worksheet.
- Don't forget this form! Please complete for each fund.
- This form was often produced at budget workshops – simply copy info to form in Gateway.
- Pulls into Line 2, 3, 4A, 4B, and 6 on Form 4B for most funds. Make certain amounts on worksheet match the Form 4B amounts.



Gateway Tips: Form 2

- This form was uploaded at budget workshops for most townships.
- Adding or entering revenue amounts is done directly on the Form 2.
- Adding revenues to or deleting revenues from a fund is done *outside* the Form 2 in the "Customize Revenues" section.



Gateway Tips: Form 3

- This form is a template of your notice to taxpayers. Many units received this notice at their budget workshops.
- Make certain this form is submitted in Gateway as soon as possible. Public hearing and adoption meeting dates, times, and locations are automatically placed online.









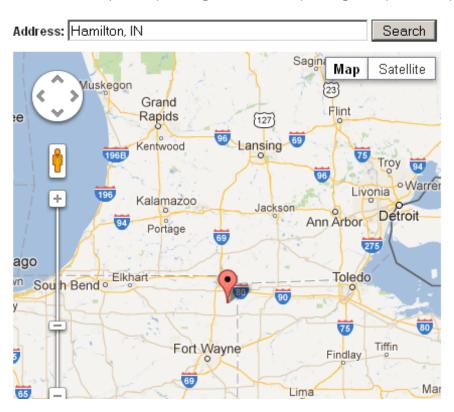






Search for Budget Hearings

Choose a location, either by entering an address or by clicking directly on the map, to find budget hearings in that county.



The following results are for all units in Steuben county.

Public Hearings

ANGOLA CIVIL CITY		
210 N. Public Square, Angola (<u>search</u>)	Sep 17, 2012	7:00 PM
CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF STEUBEN COUNT		
322 South Wayne Street (<u>search</u>)	Sep 10, 2012	4:00 PM
CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP		
7350 E 750 N (<u>search</u>)	Sep 18, 2012	6:00 PM
CLEARLAKE CIVIL TOWN		
111 Gecowets Drive (search)	Sep 10, 2012	6:30 PM



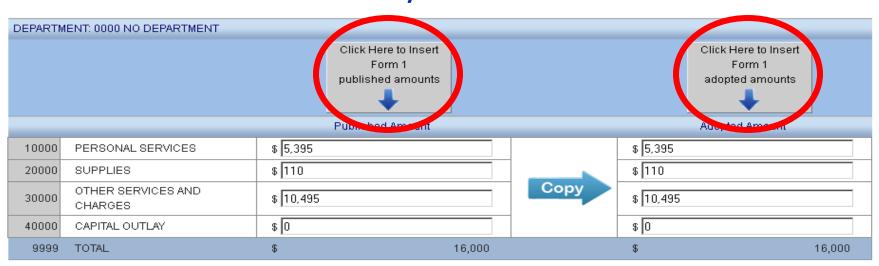
Gateway Tips: Debt Worksheet

- You <u>do not</u> need to complete the Debt Worksheet if:
 - 1. Your township has no outstanding debt.
 - 2. Your outstanding debt is paid from a non-debt-service fund, such as General or Cumulative Fire.
- You <u>do</u> need to complete the Debt
 Worksheet if your debt is paid from a debt
 service fund.



Gateway Tips: Form 4A

- Make certain <u>all funds</u> and <u>all columns</u> are completed!
- Easiest way to complete: pull amounts from Form 1 to Form 4A.
- Check totals they should match other forms.



Totals by Fund

Published Amount Total: \$ 16,000

Adopted Amount Total: \$ 16,000



Gateway Tips: Form 4B

- This form was uploaded for most townships at budget workshops.
- If you accidentally save over your workshop upload, let us know. We can re-upload.
- Make certain amounts are entered in all funds and all columns before submitting.



Gateway Tips: Form 4B

- If your form wasn't uploaded at your budget workshop:
 - Most data can be pulled from Current Year Financial Worksheet, Debt Worksheet, Form 2, and Form 4A. Make certain these forms are completed and accurate before pulling!
 - Bottom portion can be completed using the Gateway Calculator. Make certain AV is entered on top of form.



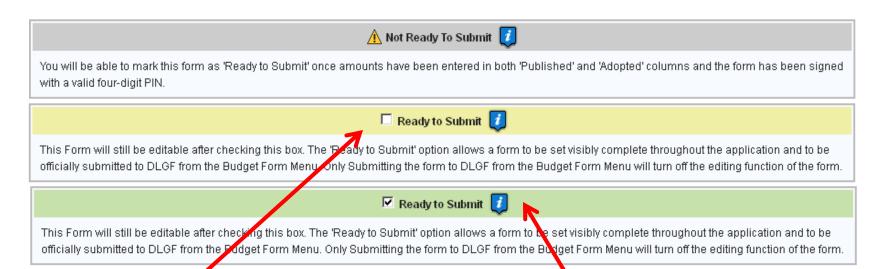
Gateway Tips: Form 4

- Make certain total budget, total tax levy, and total tax rate are correct on the form.
- Board members' votes and signatures must be clearly visible on Form 4.
- Trustee should sign the "Attest" field.
- If a last-minute change to the amounts occurs, write in correct amounts and have board members initial the correction.

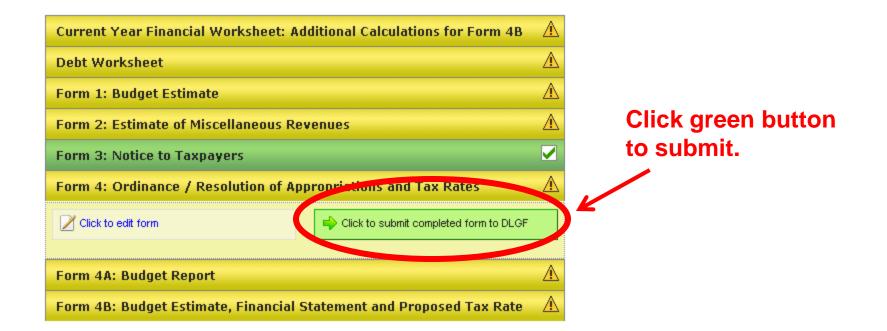


Gateway Tips: Submitting Forms

- All forms except Form 4 template need to be signed w/ PIN.
- All forms will then need to be marked as "Ready to Submit."
- Submit forms by clicking green button on "Budget Forms Menu."
- When form name turns to green, your form has been submitted.



Check box in yellow rectangle – will turn green when checked.





Gateway Tips: Scanning/Uploading

- Proof of publication (newspaper clipping, publisher's claim) and <u>signed copy of Form 4</u> must be scanned and uploaded directly to Gateway.
- Try these local resources if you do not own a scanner:
 - 1. Nearby friends/family
 - 2. Public library
 - 3. County auditor's office



Contact the Department

- Colby Shank, Project Coordinator
 - Telephone: 317.232.3777
 - E-mail: gateway@dlgf.in.gov

 Gateway user guides/resources: www.in.gov/dlgf/8918.htm